

The Arkansas Genealogical Society E-zine

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Edited by Carolyn Earle Billingsley and Lynda Childers Suffridge

Table of Contents:

- Introduction
- News about Arkansas Genealogy
- Arkansas Links
- Tips for Arkansas Research
- Upcoming articles in the *Arkansas Family Historian*
- Events
- Book Notices
- AGS Publications

Introduction:

The Arkansas Genealogical Society is sending you this E-zine (**electronic magazine**) to keep you informed about information, activities, publications, and web links to help our members with their genealogical research in Arkansas. It is a free service to AGS members.

This E-zine is a supplement to, not a replacement of, the quarterly publication, the *Arkansas Family Historian* or to the *AGS Newsletter*.

Please let us know if you like this new membership benefit or if you have any information or helpful links to include in the next addition. All suggestions are welcomed. Email AGS_Ezine@agsgenealogy.org with comments or information.

Queries will also be accepted, if they are clear and concise as to time and place, and pertain to Arkansas. Information about upcoming family reunions, county genealogical society events, new books, or any other items of interest are also accepted. We'd also like to hear your anecdotes about researching Arkansas topics or any special problems or questions you have.

This E-zine is for you, the members, and we want to include anything that might assist you in your research.

News about Arkansas Genealogy:

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives Has Merged with the Arkansas History Commission

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) in Washington, AR has merged with the Arkansas History Commission (AHC) which is the state archives located in Little Rock. Dr. Wendy Richter has succeeded Dr. John Ferguson as director of the AHC. The AHC is a division of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. SARA will remain in Washington at its present location.

The Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives has unique or primary source archival materials dating back to the early 1800's. We serve as a central clearing house and repository for the preservation of records of the history of twelve counties in southwest Arkansas: Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union. Until 1836, those counties were the edge of the frontier for the United States.

Our oldest document is dated 1817. It is a handwritten receipt from the Andrew Snoddy Trading Post on the Red River at Pecan Point where what would now be somewhere south of Foreman. His customers included Caddos and Choctaws.

Southwest Archives is located adjacent to Old Washington Historic State Park at 201 Highway 195, Washington, Arkansas. We are eight miles from Hope, Arkansas. Take exit 30 off Interstate 30 and go west on Highway 278.

Source: Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, <http://www.southwestarchives.com/>, Accessed 12 July 2006.

Subscribe to *The Butler Banner: Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies*:

Email arkininfo@cals.lib.ar.us and ask to be put on their mailing list for *The Butler Banner*. The latest issue (Volume 8, No. 4, Summer 2006), is eight pages in length and has items about the following:

- The official launching of the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture Online*, on 2 May 2006, which contains a varied spectrum of articles on all aspects of Arkansas history and culture. The project began two and a half years ago and is expected to continue through 2010. www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net
- 1,326 rolls of microfilm added to the Butler Center's collection, most of it military records.
- A new Butler Center publication: "*A Rough Introduction to This Sunny Land*": *The Civil War Diary of Private Henry A. Strong, Co. K. Twelfth Kansas Infantry*, edited by Tom Wing. The diary covers Strong's Civil War experiences as a soldier in southwest Missouri, Indian Territory, Fort Smith and Camden, Arkansas, as well as his many opinions about events and people. The cost is \$11.95, plus tax and shipping. Contact the Butler Center or visit their website.

You can also go to their website, www.butlercenter.org, click on publications, *Butler Banner*, and read all the past issues.

Margaret Smith Ross Papers housed in Special Collections, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville:

The late Margaret Smith Ross, historian and journalist, died December 2, 2002, leaving an incredible collection of manuscripts and records dealing with Arkansas. A North Little Rock native, Ross attended Arkansas Tech University, then the University of Arkansas, where she studied journalism under Walter Lemke. She married Captain Edwin L. Ross in September 1942 and he was killed in Normandy in 1944 without ever seeing their only child, Edwin. She never remarried.

Ross had a brief stint as a freelance writer and as a research assistant at the Arkansas History Commission. She joined the staff of the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1957 where she served as corporate history and curator of the Arkansas History Library of *Gazette* publisher, J. N. Heiskell. She was an early member of the Pulaski County Historical Society and the founding editor of their journal, the *Pulaski County Historical Review*. She served as staff historian for the *Arkansas Gazette* for twenty-seven years and was best known for her column, "Chronicles of Arkansas," which ran, almost daily from 1958 to 1968. She also wrote a genealogical and local history column, "Grass Roots," from 1979 to 1984.

The Ross Papers consist of 106 linear feet of records, including her personal papers, historical and genealogical research materials, and the original records of the Pulaski County Circuit Court dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her personal papers include correspondence, published "Chronicles of Arkansas" and "Grass Roots" articles, and drafts of writings. Historical materials include materials related to Arkansas during its territorial and early statehood period, Civil War and Reconstruction, and Arkansas history after Reconstruction.

Original court documents pertain to notable Arkansans including Robert Crittenden, James S. Conway, Augustus A. Garland, Albert Pike, Henry Rector, Chester Ashley, William Woodruff, Powell Clayton, Elisha Baxter, Joseph Brooks, and Mifflin Gibbs. Other court documents pertain to subjects such as debt, murder, prostitution, real estate, etc.

Court documents pertaining to African Americans include materials on slaves, freed Negroes, and freedmen. Also included among the court documents are post-Civil War amnesty oaths, Reconstruction era militia claims, and materials related to the Brooks-Baxter War. The history of the *Arkansas Gazette* is highlighted through nineteenth century court documents and papers produced during Ross's career. Also included is significant correspondence of Walter Lemke as well as photographs made by him.

Materials include correspondence, court documents, scrapbooks, diaries, physician appointment books, photographs, drawings, and other ephemera. For a full listing of materials included in the collection go to: <http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/mc1587/default.asp>

Source: "Books and Letters," *Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2006, p. 6.

Genealogy Classes at UALR:

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock now offers an upper-level classes in genealogy and southern history, taught by Carolyn Earle Billingsley, Ph.D., during the Fall Semester (August 28 though December 12, 2006).

The class (Course HIST 4390-02) is titled "Genealogy and Southern History" and includes basics about doing genealogical research, as well as how to write a family history research paper, how to make source citations, write a bibliography, and provide historical context to a family history. The main assignment is a final paper covering two or three generations of an Arkansas family. The class meets each Tuesday night from 6:00pm-8:40pm.

Note that tuition is free for those over sixty years of age; see <http://www.ualr.edu/asaprogram/senior.html>. Normal tuition rates apply to other enrollees.

Contact Carolyn Earle Billingsley for further details about the class. This class is not available as an online class.

Prairie County, Arkansas, Records Microfilmed

The Genealogical Society of Utah, in cooperation with the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives in Little Rock, has completed microfilming of historic Prairie County records at the courthouses in Des Arc and DeValls Bluff. This filming is part of a project began in 1976 that has copied early county records from

all courthouses in Arkansas. Projects like this preserve historical material from possible destruction by fire, flood, and other disasters by reproducing the records on 35mm microfilm. It also makes the information more accessible by placing the film at locations such as the Arkansas History Commission in Little Rock and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

At the courthouse in Des Arc, marriage records dating from 1924 to 1954, Chancery Court records from 1876 to 1929, and deed records dating from 1887 to 1904 were microfilmed. At the courthouse in DeValls Bluff, marriage records dating from 1924 to 1962, Chancery Court records from 1886 to 1933, and deed records from 1886 to 1902 were microfilmed. This material will soon be added to the early Prairie County marriage, deed, probate, circuit court, and tax records already in the History Commission's collection. Camera operators are now filming in Monroe County.

For additional information on the Arkansas History Commission's collections, visit our website at www.arkives.com or call 501.682.6900. (Source: email from the Arkansas History Commission, 24 June 2006.)

Desmond Walls Allen to teach two classes this fall in Conway at the University of Central Arkansas:

Researching Your Family History is designed to help you identify, locate, and understand basic reference materials used by genealogists to track down those elusive ancestors. We pay special attention to looking at the communities of kinship that surround families and emphasize historical context. We'll examine documents in various record categories and develop a knack for listening to, rather than just reading, old records.

Class meets Wednesdays, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25. Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$85, Early Bird (register by Sept. 1) \$70. Age 60+ 20% discount.

Leave a Legacy: Write Your Life Story will encourage you to get your story on paper and perhaps into print, whether it's just for personal satisfaction or intended for a wider audience. We'll turn memories into memoirs. We'll write character sketches of some of the memorable people in your life. Don't leave this planet without telling your story and leaving your thoughts for future generations.

Class meets Tuesdays, Oct. 17, 24, 31, and Nov. 7. Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$65, Early Bird \$55. Age 60+ 20% discount.

Desmond Walls Allen has taught genealogy classes all over the United States, and brings 20 years of teaching experience to the classroom. She appeared in Public Television's Ancestor series as a guest expert, and moderated AETN's special on genealogy in Arkansas. She's the owner of Arkansas Research, Inc., a publishing company devoted to making historical information about Arkansas available to researchers. The author/compiler of more than 250 books, she's still a down-to-earth teacher interested in helping students learn.

For more information contact UCA's Division of Academic Outreach and Extended Programs, Brewer Hegeman Conference Center, Suite 102, 201 Donaghey, Conway, AR 72035. Phone: 501/450-3118. E-mail: communityed@uca.edu

Online Index to Arkansas Historical Quarterly

There is now an online index to the Arkansas Historical Quarterly which covers all the articles from 1942 through 2000. You can download the entire 23 megabyte .pdf file (874 pages) or click on the alphabet letter of interest and check the index online. The website is <http://arkindex.uark.edu/AHQ/> (note there is no www in the URL). Check by place name, subject, and personal name. For details about the Arkansas Historical Association, see <http://www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/>.

Source: *News from Arkansas Research, Inc.* (email newsletter), by Desmond Walls Allen, 24 July 2006.

Arkansas Links:

Arkansas Genealogical Society Home Page

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~args/home.htm>

Arkansas Historical Association

<http://www.uark.edu/depts/arkhist/home/>

Arkansas History Commission (the state archives)

<http://www.ark-ives.com/>

Conway County Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~arconway/ccga.htm>

National Register of Historic Sites, Arkansas

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/AR/state.html>

Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

<http://www.cals.lib.ar.us/butlercenter/>

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives

<http://www.southwestarchives.com/>

Tips for Arkansas Researchers:

- Arkansas is a part of the Louisiana Purchase acquired by the United States in 1803, and thus is a public land state. This means that the land that became Arkansas was owned by the federal government before passing into the hands of individuals. The U. S. Government Land Office records contain much information about the sale of these lands to your ancestors who moved to Arkansas. These records are available on Ancestry and are free at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>. You can also download a free copy of your ancestors' land patents from this site.

Upcoming articles in the Arkansas Family Historian:

Volume 44, Number 3 (September 2006)

- Listening for the Untold Stories: Strategies for Capturing the Narratives of Women in the South Prior to the 20th Century - Part 3
- Obituary Index of the *Mena Weekly Star* - 1904-1906
- Mrs. Mattie Lambert Married Twice In One Day?
- Camp Ground Cumberland Presbyterian Church Register of Communicants, Calhoun Co., AR, 1854-1947
- Arkansas Ancestry Certificates
- Arkansas Queries
- Book Review

Events:

AGS Fall Seminar

Friday evening, 20 October 2006: Featuring **Gregory A. Boyd**

- Family Maps
- More Skeletons than You Can Count

Saturday, 21 October 2006: Featuring **Barbara Vines Little**

- Born in Virginia: How Do I Find Him?
- Researching Virginia's Records, Part I
- Researching Virginia's Records, Part II
- Beyond the Courthouse: Virginia's Manuscript Collections

Friday only, \$15. Saturday only, \$25. Friday and Saturday, \$35.

Place: Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, 10900 Rodney Parham, Little Rock, Arkansas.

See AGS website www.agsgenealogy.org for details or write Seminar Chair Gloria Futrell at gfulrell@aol.com.

The Perry County Historical & Genealogical Society

This society meets the second Tuesday evening of each month at 7 p.m. at the Milam Library in Perryville, AR. They publish a quarterly newsletter full of Perry County history. Dues are \$15 per year. PCH&GS, PO Box 156, Perryville, AR 72126.

Standridge National Family Reunion to Come to Arkansas

The Standridge National Family Historical Society, a nationwide organization made up of descendants of early American pioneers named Standridge, announces that it have chosen Eureka Springs, Arkansas as the site of its next biannual national family reunion. The dates are Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30, 2006. The reunion's theme is "Come Shelter under our Family Tree."

The society, made up of family members from across the country, meets ever two years to discuss family history, discover mutual connections, and enjoy fellowship. The organization's last reunion, in 2004 in Greenville, South Carolina, attracted some 200 relatives and guests.

Of special interest at this reunion, will be discovering the descendents of an early Arkansan, Alexander Standridge, who brought his large family from Illinois to the wilds of Carroll County, Arkansas, and settled near Carrollton about 1836. Later, much of the family moved into Newton County. Other family members moved to Oklahoma, California, and other points west. However, a remarkable number of Alexander's descendents still live in Arkansas.

Many other members of the Society descend from James Standridge, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, whose descendents came to western Arkansas during the 1850s.

The reunion is open to everyone interested in the Standridge family name. The local headquarters motel in Eureka Springs will be the Inn of the Ozarks.

For more reunion information or a sample copy of the Standridge Family Newsletter, contact Russell P. Baker at 6525 Magnolia Dr., Mabelvale, AR 72103 or (email) gobgob3@mindspring.com.

"So You Wanna Be A Cherokee?"

Russell P. Baker of the Arkansas History Commission will be presenting this program at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library, Benton, Saline County, on Thursday, 7 September 2006, from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

You must register for this program by calling the library at 778-4766 or 1-800-476-4466. This program is limited to the first 75 who sign up for the program. They may also gather more information by going to www.saline.lib.ar.us.

Submitted by Steve Perdue, Curator, David O. Demuth Arkansas Room, Saline County Library, 1800 Smithers Drive, Benton, AR. 72015; Email: sperdue@saline.lib.ar.us

2006 Regional Archive Workshop: Early Bird Deadline Just Around the Corner

Jasper, Georgia (25 July 2006) The Regional In-depth Genealogical Studies Alliance (RIGS Alliance) will present a one week workshop at the National Archives-Southwest Region in Fort Worth, Texas (2-6 October 2006).

RIGS Alliance workshops are designed for genealogists, historians, and librarians with a general genealogical or historical grounding who want to learn skills and techniques for researching original records at national and regional archives. To ensure a quality experience, enrollment is limited. Although the workshops focus on records within the region, many of the record types are available at other NARA regional facilities.

Activities are based on an integrated curriculum with an emphasis on methodology and problem-solving skills. Attendees work in teams to complete assigned projects and to build confidence in research proficiency. All workshops provide an opportunity for on-site research.

Workshop staff: J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, and Linda Woodward Geiger, CG, CGL, co-directors of RIGSA Alliance, with assistance from the expert staff members from NARA's Regional Archives.

Registration must be postmarked on or before August 15, 2006, to qualify for the early registration fee. For details about the RIGS Alliance workshops, please visit the web site at www.rigsalliance.org; e-mail info@rigsalliance.org; or write to RIGS Alliance Workshop, P.O. Box 1273, Jasper, GA 30143.

Editor's Note: The National Archives-Southwest Region in Fort Worth, Texas, is the National Archives branch covering Arkansas.

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society: Fall Genealogy Seminar

Saturday, August 5, 2--6pm

Stuttgart Public Library, Registration at 9:30 a.m., Program begins at 10:00 a.m.
Seminar Fee: \$20 Lunch on your own; soft drinks and water provided

Presenter: **Dr. Michael B. Dougan:**

- Tracing Our Arkansas Ancestors
- Tips and Clues and Some Very Loose Screws

Dr. Michael B. Dougan is a past president of the Arkansas Historical Association and frequent speaker at Civil War Roundtables and the Old State House in Little Rock. He is the author of several books on Arkansas and served as producer for the CD set, "Mary Lewis: The Golden Haired Soprano."

Presenter: **Russell P. Baker:**

- In Search of Southern Birth and Death Records
- Using Church Records for Genealogical Research

Russell P. Baker currently serves as Archival Manager for the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives. He is the author of several award winning historical and genealogical publications and a frequent lecturer on modern family history research theory at regional and national conferences.

For more information, contact: Linda Fischer (870-673-3413 or 870-673-3508) or Janet Bryant (870-673-7536)

Sponsored by Grand Prairie Genealogical Society, c/o Stuttgart Public Library, 2002 S. Buerkle, Stuttgart, AR 72160; (870) 673-1966 or Fax (870) 673-4295.

Book Notices:

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, available from www.ArkansasResearch.com. The first book is the index to all obituaries from 1976 to 2005; the remaining books are photocopies of all the actual obituaries. All were collected by John T. Sanders, Sr., then indexed and published by Desmond Walls Allen. You can also view the actual indexes to each volume at the Arkansas Research website. Note that obituaries for these time periods are often for people born back in the late 1800s. Published 2006.

Index to Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1976-2005.
ISBN 1-56546-327-7, 139 pages, \$23.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1976-1981.
ISBN 1-56546-329-3, 318 pages, \$36.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1982-1987
ISBN 1-56546-330-7, 287 pages, \$33.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1988-1993
ISBN 1-56546-331-5, 302 pages, \$34.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1994-1999
ISBN 1-56546-332-3, 364 pages, \$39.00

Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 2000-2005
ISBN 1-56546-328-5, 430 pages, \$47.00

SET of all 5 books: *Marshall Mountain Wave Obituaries, Searcy County, Arkansas, 1976-2005*, ISBN 1-56546-333-1, SET of all 5 books listed above, \$170.00.

AGS Publications:

For a full list of AGS publications for sale, visit the AGS Store at www.agsgenealogy.org.

Featured book of the month is Russell P. Baker's, *From Memdag to Norsk, A Historical Directory, 1832-1990*. \$25. This book contains a list of all Arkansas post offices of the past and present, along with their dates of operation and their exact locations. An essential source for those researching Arkansas places.

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Opt-out notice:

If you do not wish to receive the AGS E-zine, please send your name and email address to **AGS\_Ezine@agsgenealogy.org** tell us you don't wish to receive the E-zine, and you will be removed from our list. If you know of someone who wants to be on the list to receive the e-zine, please send the name and email address to that above also.

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Please note that this, the first edition of the AGS E-zine, is a work in progress. We hope to get a special email account set up to send it directly from AGS, but for now, Desmond Walls Allen was kind enough to handle the mailing. Thank you for your patience while we work out the difficulties.

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